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ARTICLE ON FOLK-LORE. — "Folk-Lore Studies," by L. J. Vance, in the "Open Court," Chicago, December 22, 1887, and January 5, 1888. The writer points out the theories which undertake to account for the resemblance of popular tradition in different countries, inclining to the hypothesis of separate invention.

BIBLIOGRAPHICAL NOTES.

BOOKS.

[Books relating to folk-lore or mythology will receive notice, provided that a copy be sent to the editors of this journal. Such copy may be addressed to the care of the publishers directly, or to the General Editor.]

THE ENGLISH AND SCOTTISH POPULAR BALLADS. Edited by FRANCIS JAMES CHILD. Part V. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.; The Riverside Press, Cambridge. 4to, pp. 254.

With this number, Professor Child's work is more than half completed. Three more numbers will finish the series. The half volume before us contains the ballads relating to outlaws, especially Robin Hood, and that called "Sir Hugh, or The Jew's Daughter," versifying the story of Hugh of Lincoln. Of the latter ballad, three versions are given recorded in America. Two of these go back nearly to the beginning of the century, and serve to prove that the old song was traditionally current on this side of the Atlantic.

As the editor is the president of the American Folk-Lore Society, it would scarcely be proper, in the first number of this journal, to enter into a criticism which might appear a eulogy; but there can be no impropriety in citing the judgment of an eminent Italian, Prof. G. Pitrè (in the "Archivio per lo Studio delle Tradizioni Popolari," April, 1887): —

"The bibliographical history of the separate ballads and songs is, in the actual state of the study of popular poetry, a perfect work. Prepared by the labor of many years for this immense task, Professor Child has been able to follow closely the literary movement, not only of America and Europe, but also of Asia, in regard to the poetry and prose of different peoples. The fruits of such researches are here presented in pages full of comparisons and illustrations, found or conjectured in books of every class, collections of every nation, in various languages; . . . a work which will remain a monument of sagacity, critical intelligence, and learning."

As to the publishers' part in this sumptuous edition, it is only necessary to say that it is a pleasure to see American scholarship honored by a presentation so suitable and becoming.

W. W. N.